

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 /089 W

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R 051229Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3329

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1218

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WF, ZA

SUBJECT: DISSIDENT SWAPO OFFICIALS TAKEN INTO "PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY"

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ZAMBIAN FONMIN SPOKESMAN MAY 4 ANNOUNCED THAT "CERTAIN SWAPO INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY." REPORTING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, MAY 5 ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL ADDED THAT "INFORMED NATIONALIST SOURCES" SAY THOSE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY INCLUDE SWAPO SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION ANDREAS SHIPANGA; SECRETARY FOR LABOR SOLOMON MISIMA; SAKARIA SHIKOMBA, A RESEARCH OFFICE IN SHIPANGA'S INFORMATION DEPARTMENT; SHANGALA SHEELE, A SWAPO YOUTH WING LEADER; EMMANUEL ENGOMBE; AND TENANI MARTIN. MAIL ADDS THAT GRZ MOVE WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING ROUBLE WITHIN RANK AND FILE OF SWAPO AND PRESUMABLY TO ASSURE SAFETY OF THOSE INVOLVED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. RUMORS HAVE BEEN CURRENT FOR PAST WEEK THAT SHIPANGA AND OTHER SWAPO MEMBERS WERE UNDER ARREST OR SOON WOULD BE. SHIPANGA HAS BEEN
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IDENTIFIED TO US BY KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE CLOSE TO SWAPO AS LEADER

OF DISSIDENT FACTION WITHIN SWAPO HIGHLY CRITICAL OF LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA AND DESIROUS OF ARRANGING HIS OUSTER. THEIR RIVALRY HAS BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR SOMETIME. SHIPANGA IS SAID TO HAVE HAD STRONG BACKING FROM SWAPO YOUTH MOVEMENT ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CURRENT INFORMATION ON EXTENT OF SHIPANGA'S SUPPORT WITHIN SWAPO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OR WITHIN ITS MILITARY ARM.

3. ZAMBIAN ACTION TO DETAIN SHIPANGA, WHO HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THIS EMBASSY'S PRINCIPAL CONTACTS WITH SWAPO IN LUSAKA, PRESUMABLY WAS TAKEN TO AVERT POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH TOOK PLACE AMONG RIVAL FACTIONS OF FORMER ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION IN ZAMBIA IN LATE 1974/EARLY 1975. MOVE FOLLOWS STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON APRIL 25 BANNING SWAPO AND ZIMBABWE ANC LEADERS FROM MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR EXCHANGING OPEN RECRIMINATIONS ON ZAMBIAN SOIL.

4. COMMENT: THERE NOW APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR STRUGGLE FOR POWER UNDER WAY INSIDE SWAPO, ONE WHICH DEPENDING ON ITS OUTCOME COULD INFLUENCE ABILITY OF SWAPO OVER NEAR TO MID TERM TO PURSUE SERIOUS MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN CAPRIVI AND NAMIBIA. AS IN CASE OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, ANY OPEN SPLIT AMONG SWAPO LEADERS COULD EASILY LEAD TO INCREASED SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS COMPETING SWAPO FACTIONS VIE FOR OUTSIDE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT.

WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA01218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760174-0222
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760589/aaaacyci.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSIDENT SWAPO OFFICIALS TAKEN INTO "PROTECTIVE CUSTODY"
TAGS: PINS, SREF, WF, ZA, LA, SWAPO, (YANG YEE)
To: STATE DAKAR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006